SUSAN B. LICHTMAN
... recalls sentence

4/1/71

ITT Typist Cites Memo On Mitchell

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Susan B. Lichtman, a former temporary secretary at the Washington office of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp., insisted yesterday that she remembers typing a memorandum that implicated former Attorney General John N. Mitchell in arrangements for ITT's contribution to the Republican National Convention.

In a press conference here, Mrs. Lichtman, who now lives in Toronto, said she specifically recalls the sentence in a memo allegedly written by ITT lobbyist Dita D. Beard.

"John Mitchell has certainly kept it (discussions of the convention contribution) on a higher level only, we should be able to do the same."

Mitchell, in recent testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, repeatedly said that he had nothing to do with ITT's pledge of at least $200,000 to help bring the GOP convention to San Diego and proclaimed himself ignorant of convention financial arrangements.

He also denied the implications of the alleged Beard memo, which linked settlement of three antitrust cases against ITT to the convention contribution.

That memo was published by columnist Jack Anderson a month ago, triggering new hearings on the nomination of Richard G. Kleindienst to be Attorney General, at the latter's own request.

See LICHTMAN, A12, Col. 7

LICHTMAN, From A1

Mrs. Lichtman's remarks yesterday also directly contradicated the testimony of Mrs. Beard in her hospital room in Denver last weekend, when she acknowledged writing part of the memo but not the sentence specifically recalled by her former secretary.

Tracking through the memo in the presence of six U.S. Senators, when Mrs. Beard reached the sentence about Mitchell keeping the ITT commitment "on the higher level only," she exclaimed: "I don't know where in the world that mother came from."

Mrs. Lichtman who previously lived in Washington for eight years, said she came here this week "to get some more information" on the ITT case and to talk with the press.

The former ITT secretary had withheld granting interviews until learning from the staff of the Senate Judiciary Committee that there are "no present plans" to call her as a witness in the hearings.

That question has apparently not been settled, however. Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield of Montana said Thursday that he feels Mrs. Lichtman and "one or two others" should be heard from before hearings close.

Mrs. Lichtman reaffirmed yesterday her earlier statements in affidavits that she could not remember typing those portions of the Anderson-published memorandum discussing the antitrust settlement.

She also said that she does not recall the last sentence in the Anderson version—"Please destroy this, huh?"—although she remembers that it appeared in other memos she typed for Mrs. Beard.

Mrs. Lichtman reiterated that she had no notion of a "deal" between the Justice Department and ITT during her seven weeks of employment at the company's office here.

But she hastened to add that "I was not exactly in the inner chambers of the ITT empire."

Critical of ITT for releasing an affidavit signed by her to the press without her knowledge 12 days ago, Mrs. Lichtman also complained that ITT representatives had tried to get her to make stronger statements than she intended about the alleged memorandum.

For example, she said, an ITT security officer wanted her to say in her affidavit that she found it "inconceivable" that there could have been any link between the antitrust settlement and the convention contribution.

"I don't think anything very much in this world is inconceivable any more," Mrs. Lichtman told the press conference. "In the years I lived in Washington, I came to accept anything in the way of corruption."

The final version of her affidavit, produced by ITT on March 20, read:

"Being, I believe, a trusted employee and working at a small office in which there was a frequent interchange among the employees during the period of my employment, I believe that had there been any deal or connection, I would have had an inkling about it."

She spoke at the office of her lawyer, Bruce J. Terris, chairman of the D.C. Democratic Central Committee.

Mrs. Lichtman stressed that she had retained a lawyer only because "I am a rank amateur at this sort of thing . . . I'm certainly guilty of no wrongdoig."

She reiterated her recollection, which first appeared in yesterday's New York Times that she personally handled a request last summer from Sen. Vance Hartke (D-Ind.) for the use of one of ITT's private jet planes for a trip to the Midwest.

Mrs. Lichtman said she had told one of Hartke's staff members that no jet was available, because ITT's entire fleet was in use at the time

Hartke's office issued a denial yesterday, before the press conference, that the Indiana senator had ever made such a request.

But Mrs. Lichtman stuck by her recollection, saying, "I don't know Sen. Hartke and have no personal quarrel with him . . . I would have no reason for making it up."

Hospital to Release Mrs. Beard Tuesday

DENVER, Colo., March 31 (AP)—Dita Beard will be released from a hospital here on Tuesday, her physician said today.

But the 53-year-old woman will remain in the Denver area and under surveillance for her heart ailment for three or four weeks. She will return to Rocky Mountain Osteopathic Hospital several times a week for checkups, said Dr. L. M. Radetsky.